(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken to improve the export performance by the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) The trade turnover and exports of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) in the last five years have increased as follows:

(Rs. crores)

	1983.84	1987.88 (Prov.)
Trade turnover	1311	2868
Exports	274.5	690
Non-canalised Exports	4.6	357

Thus, the trade turnover and exports went up by more than two times during this period with non-canalised exports going up sharply due to increased emphasis placed by the Corporation on export of these items. Canalised exports too increased during this period, with exports of iron ore reaching a record level in 1986-87. However, exports of some minerals, including iron ore, which are canalised through MMTC, were affected adversely due to several factors including depressed international market prices, recession in demand in the international market, technological changes and inadequate availability of rupee resources in bilateral account with Romania.

MMTC has planned for a further step up in the export of non-canalised items. It also proposes to increase its canalised exports by improving their competitiveness in the international market and increasing exports to some existing markets *Discussions have been held at Ministerial* level to increase exports to Romania. Further imports have been made from them leading to increased availability of rupee resources in the bilateral trade account.

Aid from World Bank for Projects

*123. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Washington in connection with the World Bank meeting, the President of the World World Bank, Mr. Barber Conable indicated the possibility of providing World Bank aid to the tune of $ 3 billion for eleven projects in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the aid committed, project-wise, and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO). (a) and (b) At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June 1987 the World Bank Group has committed assistance of US $ 2.5 billion to India for the World Bank fiscal year 1988, from 1st July 1987 to 30th June 1988. The assistance is committed against specific projects in the State and Central sectors. The following projects have been negotiated

with the World Bank upto 30th April, 1988:

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount in (US $ Million)		
		IBRD	IDA	Total
1	National Dairy Project	200	160	360
2	Drought Assistance Project	150	200	350
3	Western Gas Project	295	..	295
4	Housing Development Finance Corporation Project (HDFC)	250	..	250
5	Industrial Finance Project	360	..	360
6	Karnataka Power-II Project	260	..	260
7	Railway Modernisation Project	390	..	390
8	Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	..	300.2	300.2
	Total:	1905	660.2	2565.2

Some more projects are due for negotiation before the end of June 1988. It is expected that the total World Bank Group assistance negotiated in the current Bank fiscal year will be around dollar 3 billion.

IBRD loans are repayable in 20 years, including a grace period of 5 years, and carry a variable rate of interest revised semi-annually. The current rate of interest is 7.72 per cent per annum. In addition a commitment fee of 0.75 per cent is levied on the undisbursed portion of the loans. IDA credits are currently repayable in 35 years, including a grace period of 10 years. IDA assistance is interest free but carries a service charge of 0.75 per on the disbursed portion of the credit.

Applications pending for grant of freedom fighters pension

*124. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: *Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS* be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications still pending with the Central Government for grant of freedom fighters' pension Statewise, and since how long they are pending;

(b) by when the entire backlog is likely to be cleared; and

(c) what fresh steps Government propose to take to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As on 31st March, 1988, 1052 cases were pending. Out of these 414 cases having some special features which could not be disposed of during the special drive in July—August, 1986 are pending for want of reports from the State Governments. Another 633 cases are to be scrutinised by the Committee of Non-Officials on Arya Samaj Movement and 5 cases are to be scrutinised by the Committee on Sind cases. State-wise position has been shown in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) The cases having special features will be finalised on receipt of verification reports from the concerned State Governments. The remaining cases will be finalised on receipt of the report of the concerned Non-Official Committees after appropriate scrutiny.

(c) Besides pursuing actively with the State Governments concerned, the Government have set-up various non-official Screening Committees in order to clear the backlog.